Outstanding dues of DD

†801. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION and BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding dues to be paid by DD to different Ministries and since when;

(b) the action taken by Doordarshan so far for payment of such amount; and

(c) the profits earned by Doordarshan during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) There are no outstanding dues payable by Doordarshan to Ministries. Against Payments made by Ministries, Doordarshan carries their campaigns, which is a continuous process.

(c) The commercial revenue earned during last three years is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
2000-2001	637.51
2001-2002	615.21
2002-2003	553.81

Doordarshan does not earn any profit since it is not a commercial enterprise.

Uplinking policy for news channels

802. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet has reviewed the uplinking policy for news channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has also initiated the process for the second phase of FM Radio licences; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the Cabinet decision of 18.3.2003, regarding uplinking policy for foreign news channels, the Government revised its guidelines for such channels on 26.3.2003. The Guidelines for uplinking of the foreign owned news channels, *inter-alia,* permit foreign equity hailing in the applicant company up to 26% of the total paid up capital and require the company to be registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956 and majority of Directors, CEO and News Editor(s) to be Resident Indians.

Further, the permission for usage of facilities/infrastructure for live news/ footage collection and transmission, irrespective of the technology used, will be given to only those channels which are uplinked from India and the channel/company will ensure that its news and current affairs content provider(s), if any, are accredited with the Press Information Bureau.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Committee had been constituted under the Chairman, BECIL for planning of frequencies for FM radio stations to be taken up in the second phase.

Scrapping of the Official Secrets Act

803. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Journalists Union has urged the Centre to scrap the outdated Official Secrets Act and amend the working Journalists Act to curb the contract system in the field and ensure free flow of information for democracy to flourish;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the suggestions;